

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 DRC-01 IO-14

/150 W

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R 250915Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4662

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

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CONCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: GOP WELCOMES ISLAMIC WELFARE AGENCY PROPOSAL

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2959

1. JUNE 25 MANILA PRESS FEATURES OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS ASKED ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH QUICKLY AN "ISLAMIC WELFARE COMMISSION" IN MANILA TO HANDLE OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE FOR FILIPINO MUSLIMS. THESE REPORTS EMPHASIZE THAT MARCOS STRESSED COMMISSION MUST WORK ACCORDING TO GOP DOMESTIC POLICIES. MARCOS REPORTEDLY IS ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS CREATION OF COMMISSION. ARTICLES STATE THAT ALL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR MUSLIM AREAS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THIS REPRESENTATIVE. (ONE ARTICLE STATES THAT COMM-
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SSION WAS IDEA OF MARCOS HIMSELF).

2. ABOVE COINCIDES WITH AFP REPORT FROM KUALA LUMPUR, PRINTED IN ONE LOCAL NEWSPAPER, THAT GOP HAS INVITED ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT SECRETARY-GENERAL AL-TOHAMY TO VISIT PHILIPPINES IN CONNECTION WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF ISLAMIC RELIEF ORGANIZATION. INVITATION REPORTEDLY EXTENDED BY PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA LININDING PANGANDAMAN WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED IN KUALA LUMPUR. DEPT FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY INSTRUCTED PANGANDAMAN TO INVITE AL-TOHAMY AND TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH TO HIM.

3. GOVT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS ALSO PLAYED UP REPORTS FROM ISLAMIC CONFERENCE THAT FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE FOR FILIPINO MUSLIMS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND JUNE 23 REMARKS OF INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK SUGGESTING THAT AL-TOHAMY CONSULT WITH GOP ON MEANS FOR PROVIDING THIS AID.

4. COMMENT: GOP HAS TAKEN POSITION WITH VARIOUS SENIOR ISLAMIC VISITORS IN THE PAST YEAR THAT IT WELCOMES ASSISTANCE FROM ISLAMIC STATES FOR FILIPINO MUSLIMS. ATTORNEY MACAPANTON ABBAS TOLD EMBOFFS IN LATE 1973 THAT HE FORESAW EVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF ISLAMIC AID MISSION IN NAMINA WHICH WOULD SELECT FROM AMONG PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY GOP. WHILE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IDEAL FROM GOP POINT OF VIEW, WE WONDER IF PHILIPPINE RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC STATES HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY PATCHED UP FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO ACCEPT MARCOS SUGGESTIONS OUTLINED ABOVE.
SULLIVAN

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